

DRAYTON VALLEY

CA2ALID 62

73 D68

c. 2

CA2 ALID 62 1973D68

Drayton Valley Community Profile.



3 3398 00300 2960



Alberta

INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2026 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library

DRAYTON VALLEY COMMUNITY PROFILE

February 1973

AN INTRODUCTION

Location

Drayton Valley is located in sections 5, 8, 9, 16 and 17, township 49, range 7, west of the 5th meridian, 87 miles southwest of Edmonton on highway No. 57. Altitude: 2,807 feet above sea level.

Population

Town (1973) 3,954

Trading Area* 18,000

*The trading area extends 35 miles north, west and south, and 30 miles east.

Weather*

Average summer temperature: 60.13 degrees F.

Average winter temperature: 10.14 degrees F.

Average annual temperature: 36.8 degrees F.

Average annual rainfall: 12.34 inches.

Average annual snowfall: 52.9 inches.

Average annual precipitation: 17.63 inches.

*From data recorded at Edmonton weather station.

Geology

The Drayton Valley area is underlain by sedimentary rocks of Tertiary Age, known as the Paskapoo formation. These sediments consist of sandstone, shale, thin layer of bentonite and thin coal beds. The surface is covered with glacial drift which is clayey in character and deposited from continental glaciers which moved in from the Northwest Territories.

Soil

Drayton Valley is in the dark grey soil zone.

Vegetation - Mainly woodland in which the tree growth is frequently denser and has more evergreens than in the black zone.

Soil Profile - Generally variable, ranging from nearly black to grey. The surface horizon consists of a thin layer of semi-decomposed leaf litter, which may be absent in burned over areas, underlain by a mineral horizon that can usually be divided into two parts. The upper part may be black, grey black, or dark brown. The lower part is frequently somewhat

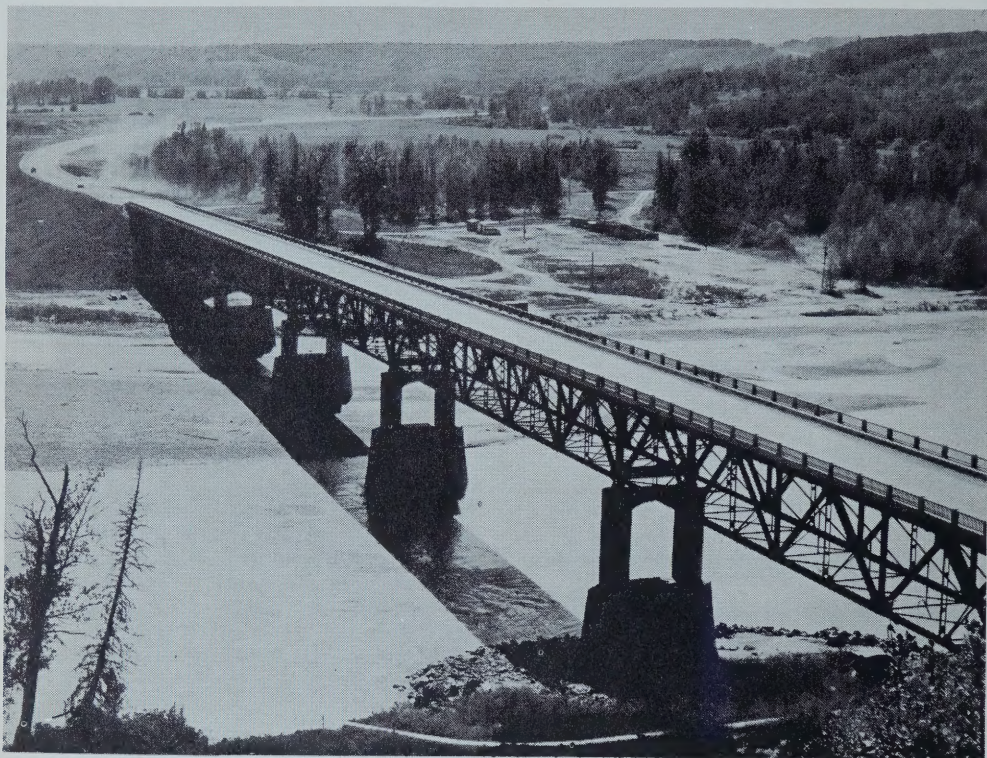


Plaque mounted on model derrick at Town Hall.

leached of organic matter and considerably greyer than the upper part. The total depth of these surface horizons averages about 10 to 12 inches. The sub-soils are generally dark brown in color and lime is found at depths of about 30 to 50 inches.

Fertility - These soils are generally not as rich as those of the black zone. Leaching of the surface horizons has resulted in the loss of some plant nutrients. Nitrogen, phosphorus and sometimes sulphur may be deficient.

Land Use - A system of mixed farming that includes legumes and grasses in crop rotation, supplemented with applications of fertilizer when required, should be practised for best results.



Bridge across North Saskatchewan River two miles from town.

History

The Town of Drayton Valley was originally named "Power House", but because of a similar name given a town in British Columbia it was changed and the new name was derived from Drayton, England. The original townsite was situated one and one-half miles down the valley, but was moved to the top of the hill.

First settlers were lumbermen, arriving in 1907 and 1908. Large trees and the North Saskatchewan River enabled them to make a living. Logs were floated down the river to the sawmills at Edmonton. The next settlers were trappers. An abundant amount of furs were shipped out every year up until 1920 when the price of furs dropped to an uneconomical level. Since there were no roads in the district these early settlers walked to Edmonton or floated their furs down the river on rafts. On their return trip they either walked or took the train to Rocky Mountain House, built another raft and floated down with their yearly supplies.

In 1911 an English syndicate was orga-

nized to build a power dam six miles south of Drayton Valley on the North Saskatchewan River. The project was abandoned due to the outbreak of the First World War.

In 1930 the Anglican Church established a mission in the hamlet. The money for the upkeep of this mission came from England. The church hired a nurse to supply the medical needs of the community, and built a residence for her. The first church built in the district was a branch of the Church of God.

In 1930 there were 30 lumber camps, employing between 300 and 400 bush workers. This was the main industry until 1945. Mixed farming soon started in the cleared timber areas and remained the principal industry until oil was discovered in 1953. At that time there were only 75 permanent residents in the hamlet. By the end of the year there were over 3,000 workers. Accommodation had to be found and many lived in trailers until homes could be built.

Drayton Valley was incorporated as a town on February 1, 1957.

LIVEABILITY



Modern homes grace residential areas.

Drayton Valley is located on a hill overlooking the valley of the North Saskatchewan River and is approximately 87 miles southwest of Edmonton on Highway No. 57 or approximately 60 miles west of Leduc on Highway No. 39 adjoining No. 57.

All the stores and business establishments are modern and the streets are wide allowing ample room for parking. A number of homes are being built in the new sub-divisions.

Excellent schools teach grades 1 to 12 and six churches serve the spiritual needs of the community. A modern 50 bed hospital with

seven doctors and two dentists supply the medical-dental needs of the town. Fraternal societies and service clubs keep the evening well occupied for the members. The sportsman is well provided for in upland game birds and big game.

The total area of the town is 1,298 acres, of which 120.53 acres is devoted to parks and playgrounds. Of 25.9 total miles of roads and streets, 14.6 are gravelled and 11.3 miles are paved. There are 9.17 miles of gravelled public lanes and alleys.



New 80-lot mobile home subdivision. All utility lines are buried.

ADMINISTRATION

Civic Government

The town is governed by a mayor and six councillors elected for a three year term. The secretary-treasurer administers the policies set by the council.

Tax Structure

Assessment (1972):

Land \$ 854,320

Residential 3,088,565
Improvement 1,641,775
Total \$5,584,660

Mill Rate:

Municipal 32.23; School Foundation 25.35; Supplementary School 3.70; Hospitals 2.85; Units 1.92; Debt 13.95; Total 80 mills.



Town Hall is attractively landscaped administrative hub.

PROTECTIVE AND UTILITY SERVICES

Law Enforcement

R.C.M.P. police the town with 1 corporal, 1 sergeant and 3 constables. The town hires a stenographer for the R.C.M.P. office. There is one justice of the peace located in town.

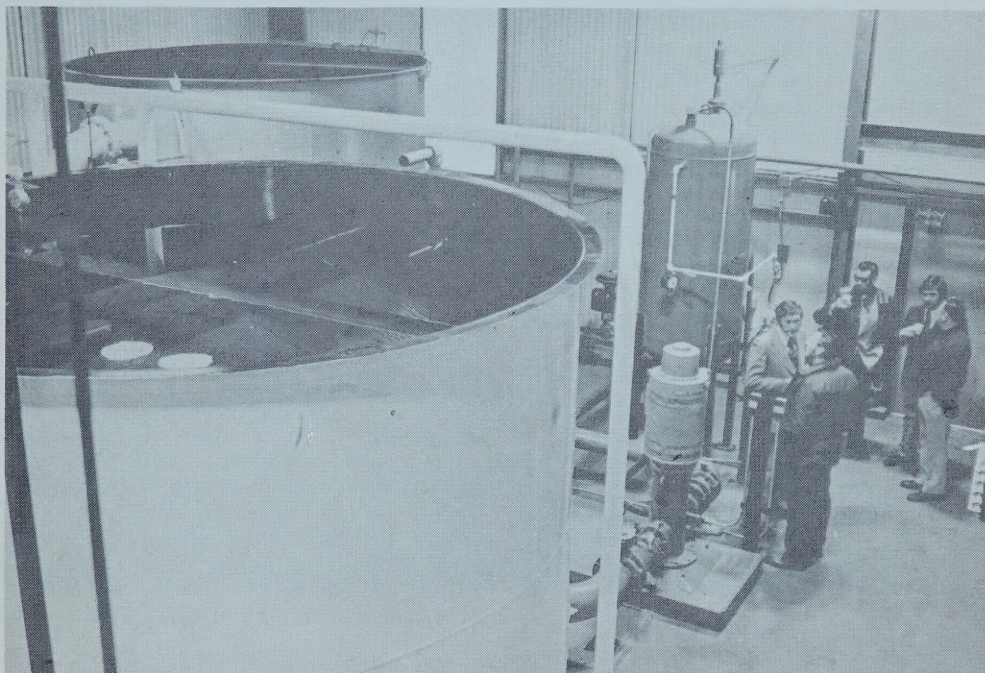
The National Building Code is followed, also a zoning bylaw. All new buildings, repairs to buildings, removal of buildings must be approved by council after which a permit is issued.

Electrical installations must comply with

operated by the local fire volunteers. The oil companies also have their own fire fighting equipment with trained personnel.

Water and Sewer

Water is obtained from the North Saskatchewan River at a site about 2½ miles east of the centre of town. The water treatment plant, intake and water pipeline was completed in January 1973 at a cost of \$650,000. However, since it will replace the depleting



New water treatment plant opened in February 1973.

the requirements of the Alberta Electrical Protection Act.

Sanitary installation must comply with the Provincial Health Regulations.

Fire Protection

The fire brigade consists of a chief and 21 volunteer firemen.

Equipment includes one King Seagrave 625 GPM pumper mounted on a 1956 Ford chassis, 500 gallons water tank, ladders, helmets, axes, etc., 1,450 feet of 2½ inch hose, 600 feet of 1½ inch hose, one 7½ H.P. siren, and 72 fire hydrants conveniently located throughout the town.

A fire truck belonging to the county is

wells source and end the rationing situation the cost is felt to be merited.

Water Rates: First 100,000 gallons, \$1.40 per M; over 100,000, \$1.20 per M. Occasional bulk sales rate is \$1.50 per 500 gallons or part thereof. Annual hydrant rental is \$150 per hydrant.

Sewer Rates: One-third of water rates.

The town has 3.2 miles of storm sewers, 16.96 miles of sanitary sewers, and 17.53 miles of water mains.

Electric Power

Three phase 60-cycle power is supplied under a franchise by Calgary Power Limited.

Natural Gas

Natural gas is supplied to the town under a franchise by Northwestern Utilities Ltd., Rate No. 1 - General:

Available to all customers.

First 20 therms or less used per month \$3.00.

All additional therms used per month 4.5¢ therm.

Minimum monthly charge \$3.00.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date the charge per therm, other than the first 20 therms shall be increased by 3¢ and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

Rate No. 2 - Optional

Available on annual contract to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 11,900 therms.

Fixed charge - \$20.00 per month.

Plus commodity charge - 2.7¢ per therm.

Minimum monthly charge - \$20.00.

When accounts are not paid on or before the due date, the charge per therm shall be increased by 2¢ and the gross rate so arrived at shall apply.

Rate No. 3 - Optional High Load Factor:

Available on annual contract to all customers whose annual consumption is more than 100,000 therms and whose total consumption during the six meter reading periods ending in May, June, July, August, September and October is not less than 40 percent of

their total consumption during the year.

Fixed charge - \$20.00 per month plus 22¢ per month per therm of maximum twelve hour demand.

Commodity charge for all consumption 1.7¢ per therm.

Minimum monthly charge - fixed charge.

The maximum twelve hour demand shall be the greatest amount of gas in therms delivered in any twelve consecutive hours during the current billing period or the preceding 11 billing periods as determined by the company by measurement. The maximum twelve hour demand of a new consumer of gas shall be estimated by the company, providing that the company with the approval of the Board of Public Utility Commissioners take into consideration in determining the fixed charge, the effect of the customer's demand for gas upon the company's peak load.

General Conditions Affecting Rates No. 2 and 3:

These rates are available only on annual contract, which shall continue from year to year thereafter, until either party shall give to the other party, at least 30 days prior to the expiration of any such year a written notice of desire to terminate same whereupon at the expiration of such year it shall cease and determine.

HEALTH SERVICES

Drayton Valley Municipal Hospital is rated at a capacity of 47 beds. There are two medical clinics with nine doctors located in town. There is also a 49-unit senior citizens lodge.

Edson Health Unit maintains an office in town and holds regular clinics to examine pre-school and school children.



Senior Citizens Lodge is a fine new facility.

EDUCATION



New senior high school has theatre-auditorium-gymnasium facilities for shared use for education and community functions.

Drayton Valley has both public and separate school systems.

Public schools are administered by the County of Parkland No. 31, and include two elementary schools, a junior high school, and

Frank Maddock High School.

St. Anthony's School is operated by the separate system.

Two kindergartens and a play school are also in operation.



Drayton Valley Separate School.

ACTIVITIES AND RECREATION

Churches

Anglican, United, Roman Catholic, Lutheran, Church of God, Baptiste, Pentecostal, Jehovah's Witnesses, and Latter Day Saints.

Organizations

Elks, Royal Purple, Lions, Rotary, Canadian Legion, Legion Auxiliary, Women's Institute, Masonic Lodge, Association of Registered Nurses, Oil Wives, Home and School Association, Hospital Auxiliary, Senior Citizens Club, Purple Pansy Association.

Cultural Activities

Municipal Library, Art Club, Ceramics Club, Drayton Valley Entertainers, town band, and the high school band.

Youth Activities

Boys: Scouts and cubs.

Girls: Guides and brownies.

Sports

Athletic Association, minor baseball, hockey, football, softball, basketball, badminton, gymnastics, keep fit, boxing, curling, swimming, golf, skiing, snowmobiling, gymkhana, figure skating.

Facilities: Heated swimming pool, Centennial Arena (artificial ice), curling rink, (five sheets of artificial ice), open air hockey and skating rink, nine-hole golf course, baseball diamonds, wading pool, ski slope with tow, football field, rodeo accommodation and race track.

Fairs

Evergreen Rodeo (two days).

Theatres and Halls

Cardium Theatre, Pembina Drive-In, Legion Hall, Elks Hall, Scout Hall, and joint use facilities at Frank Maddock High School (reciprocal agreement between County and Town).



The mineralized Jackknife Springs near Brazeau Dam power house.

BUSINESSES AND SERVICES

Government Offices

Federal: Post Office, Royal Canadian Mounted Police detachment.

Provincial: Alberta Government Telephones, Oil and Gas Conservation Board, Department of Highways, Liquor Vendor, Edson Health Unit, Alberta Treasury Branch.

Municipal: Town Hall housing council chamber, town manager, secretary-treasurer and staff, town engineer, waterworks foreman, public works foreman, police department, fire department, recreation director, civil defense director.

Financial Facilities

Royal Bank of Canada, Treasury Branch.

Co-operatives

U.F.A. Co-op.

Travel Accommodation

Hotel: Drayton Valley Hotel, 47 rooms, (licensed dining room and lounge).

Motels: Ambassador, 41 units, \$10 and

up; Matador, 20 units, \$10 and up; Midtown, five units, \$8 and up.

Trailer Courts: Western Trailer Court, Pembina Parkways, E & B Trailer Court, Drayton Valley Cabins.

Tourist Camps: Alberta Government campsite 1½ miles north on highway No. 57; West Valley Park in southwest area of town.

Transportation

Motor transport to and from Edmonton daily.

Daily truck service to Edmonton.

Taxi stand: one cab.

Airstrip for light planes.

Communications

Alberta Government Telephones.

Radio: Reception from Edmonton and Wetaskiwin stations.

Television: Reception from Edmonton and Red Deer stations.

Newspaper: Drayton Valley Western Review (weekly).



Drayton Valley's business district is compact, and friendly.

Business Establishments

Type of Business	Number of Establishments		
Absorption Plant	1	Hobby Shop	1
Accountants	2	Insurance	4
Auto Body Repairs	2	Janitor Service	1
Ambulance	1	Jewellery Store	1
Auction Mart	1	Lawyers (calling)	2
Abattoir	1	Lumber Yards	3
Answering Service	1	Liquor Vendor	1
Apartment Houses	10	Milk Distributor	1
Bakery	1	Motels	3
Banks	2	Mail Order Office	1
Barbers	2	Oil Distributors	4
Beauty Parlors	2	Oilfield Services	7
Bowling Alley	1	Optometrists (calling)	2
Building Contractors	7	Painters & Decorators	3
Bus Depot	1	Pipeline Companies	4
Concrete Ready-Mix	7	Pool Room	1
Coin Laundry	2	Printers	1
Confectionery Stores	2	Propane Distributors	3
Chiropractor	1	Plumbing & Heating	2
Clothing (men's)	1	Real Estate	2
Clothing (women's & children's)	2	Radio & Television Repairs	2
Car Wash	1	Restaurants	4
Catering	1	Second Hand Shops	3
Dairy Bar	2	Shoe Repairs	1
Dentist	2	Shoe Store	1
Doctors	8	Sporting Goods	1
Drug Stores	2	Photography Studio	1
Department Stores	2	Taxi	1
Dry Cleaning (calling)	2	Theatre	1
Electrical Contractor	6	Theatre (Drive-In)	1
Electrical Appliance Repairs	1	Trailer Parks	4
Furniture, Electrical Appliances	2	Truck Transport	3
Florist	1	Travel Bureau	1
Farm Supplies	1	Tire Shops	2
Fabric Store	1	Towing & Trailer Hauling	2
Garages, Service Stations	9	Upholstery Shop	1
Grocery Stores	2	Variety Shop	1
Hardware Stores	3	Veterinary Clinic	1
Hotel	1	Watch Repairs	1
Health Food Store	1	Welding & Machine Shops	4

DEVELOPMENT

Sites

Industrial and residential property is available for development from private owners. A tremendous step has been made in the past two years in providing residential lots. More than 100 lots were subdivided last year of which 50 have been taken up.

Institutional Development

In February of 1972 authorization came through for construction of a senior citizen lodge in Drayton Valley. One month later sod was turned for the erection of this fine 49 unit ultra modern institution. On February 15, 1973, the contractor handed the facility over to the Meridian Foundation as completed. This \$550,000 senior citizen's lodge is truly a worthy structure for our Town.

Industrial Development

The Pembina oilfield, discovered in February 1953 continues to be the main source of livelihood for the town. Some 3,223 producing wells supply upwards of 140,000 barrels of oil per annum for the provincial economy. According to the Energy Resources Conservation Board there still remains 1,063 billion barrels in the oilfield and it is expected approximately 236 billion barrels will be recoverable.

The Pembina oilfield product requires a great deal of service work on the wells due to the properties of the crude oil and the structure and type of producing strata from which it is

extracted. Because of this high degree of employment in these categories will be required as long as the field is produced.

In addition to the oilfield and oilfield related services the Drayton Valley area produces grains, livestock, forestry products, gravel and sand. The agricultural economy is not extensive but with the healthy livestock producing side of it, most of the grain grown is used in feed.

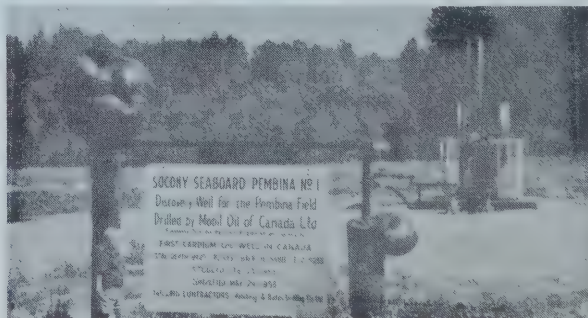
Thirty miles west of Drayton Valley town, the Brazeau Dam and power house produce a goodly share of Alberta's electrical power. In addition, it provides a means to control the low and high water flow to insure a reasonably steady supply for the town and cities downstream, on the North Saskatchewan River. The lake formed by this dam will someday soon, become in summer a playground for sailing, power boating, fishing and just relaxing, and in winter an ice fishing and ice boating paradise.

In addition the west country — still wilderness area — provides a tremendous big game hunting ground. This has been noted for years for its deer, moose, elk, and bear habitat and continues to be a great drawing card for hunters.

Building Permits

Drayton Valley's buoyant economy is reflected in its construction values for the past five years:

Type of Construction	1972	1971	1970	1969	1968
Residential	\$ 835,710	\$ 974,900	\$ 889,122	\$ 834,936	\$ 332,630
Commercial	177,200	106,020	5,580	206,500	276,300
Industrial	75,200	185,800	89,900	79,700	32,700
Institutional	642,890	800,500	72,000	38,000	50,000
Totals	\$1,731,000	\$2,067,220	\$1,056,602	\$1,159,136	\$691,630



Pembina Field's first oilwell, about 10 miles southwest of town.



Forestry tower is one of the oldest structures in the area.

Enquiries

Enquiries about Drayton Valley should be directed to:

The Secretary-Treasurer,
Town of Drayton Valley,
Town Office,
Drayton Valley, Alberta.
Telephone: 542-3327

